

Claims 1-14 are allowed and will remain as numbered upon allowance.

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest cited art—Glover et al. (U.S. 5,505,854)—fails to anticipate or render obvious, alone or in any proper combination, the steps of removing prefiltered solvent from a filter using a rinsing fluid in a forward flow direction; removing particulates from the filter using a flush gas in a reverse flow direction and then recycling each of the prefiltered solvent and the flush gas after removal from the first filter—in the method of claim 8. The cited art also fails to teach the first circuit providing rinse fluid in a forward flow to displace pre-filtered solvent from the first filter to a first tank and the second circuit providing a flush gas in reverse flow to the first filter to displace the solids to a second tank, wherein the pre-filtered solvent and flush gas in the respective tanks are recycled to the plant—in combination with all the other limitations of claim 1. The drawings filed 4-26-2006 have been approved.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mr. Terry K. Cecil whose telephone number is (571) 272-1138. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00a-4:30p M-F..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Mr. Terry K. Cecil/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797

tkc